
APPLICATION FOR SCORING WRITING

Name _____

Home Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

Home Telephone _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

School Telephone _____

Fax Number _____

Preferred E-mail _____

Scoring Session Preference—please check one grade and one site only

☐ Grade 8 — January 29 through January 31, 2003

☐ Bangor ☐ Portland

☐ Grade 4 — February 5 through February 7, 2003

☐ Bangor ☐ Portland

☐ Grade 11 — February 12 through February 14, 2003

☐ Bangor ☐ Portland

Position (check one)

_____ Full-time teacher at grade _____

_____ Coordinator/Administrator at grade _____

_____ Other (please specify) _____

Experience

If you have attended a scoring session since the 1998–99
school year, please indicate:

When _____ Grade Level _____

Measured
Progress
171 Watson Road
Dover, NH 03820



An Opportunity for Teachers and Administrators to Score Writing in Maine

Background

In March of 1996, the Maine legislature enacted LD 1791, an Act to Initiate Education Reform in Maine. This law established the system of *Learning Results* in eight content areas and contains six guiding principles. The legislation requires that student achievement of the *Learning Results* be measured by a combination of state and local assessments to measure progress and ensure accountability. The fourth-, eighth-, and eleventh-grade results of the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) are the state assessments used to measure achievement of the *Learning Results*.

Students in grades four, eight, and eleven in all public schools and schools approved for tuition purposes are tested annually. Each student is assessed in the areas of English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science and technology, social studies, health education, and visual and performing arts.

Testing will take place during the following time periods in 2002 and 2003:

English Language Arts and Health Education
December 2 through December 13, 2002

Science and Technology, Social Studies,
Mathematics, and Visual and Performing Arts
March 3 through March 14, 2003

How is ELA tested?

English language arts is tested through responses to reading selections and writing prompts reflecting the following ELA content standards: A. Process of Reading, B. Literature and Culture, C. Language and Images, D. Informational Texts, F. Standard English Conventions, and G. Stylistic Aspects of Writing.

The common writing prompts are administered to all students in grades 4, 8, and 11. The prompt for each grade level changes every year. The prompts include the persuasive, narrative, descriptive, and expository modes of writing and reflect a variety of purposes and audiences aligned with the *Learning Results*. In addition, students also respond in writing to a prompt based on a reading selection.

How is writing scored?

Two readers score each common writing sample using a holistic scoring rubric based on content standards F and G. The second writing sample, connected to the reading selection, is scored once by the testing company, using the same rubric.

Who scores the common writing?

Maine teachers and administrators are recruited to score the common writing prompt responses for several important reasons:

- Teachers who participate in scoring sessions develop skills in holistic evaluation of writing by using a rubric aligned with the Maine *Learning Results* that can be applied to writing instruction in their classrooms.
- Administrators gain skills helpful in improving the teaching and evaluation of writing in their buildings.
- Maine teachers' involvement in scoring creates a network of teachers who can serve as resources to their local schools and the state.

When and where is the writing scored?

To make scoring sites accessible to a large number of Maine teachers and administrators, scoring for each grade level is currently conducted at two regional sites: Bangor (Bangor Motor Inn) and Portland (Verrillo's Convention Center). Each session lasts three days, with registration from 9:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. on the first day. The training session for the holistic scoring is part of the first day's activities. The scoring takes place from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. on the first day, and 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. on the subsequent days. Lunch is provided each day.

Teachers and administrators who would like to be involved in the scoring may select the session that is most convenient for them. (See application for dates and sites.) Applicants will receive a letter of confirmation, as well as further information about the facilities and the session they will attend, after the application deadline.

What are the benefits for participants?

The scoring sessions give participants an opportunity to

- develop skills in holistic evaluation of writing,
- read the range of student writing produced at each grade,
- share instructional ideas and concerns with other teachers and administrators, and
- connect current practices with the Maine *Learning Results*.

Who qualifies?

Any certified Maine educator who is currently employed by a public or approved private school qualifies to participate in the scoring sessions. We encourage *all* content area teachers and specialists to participate. Participants are capable of scoring at *any* grade level and are encouraged to do so. Previous experience is not necessary since all participants receive training in the holistic scoring method during the actual scoring sessions. Teachers who scored in prior years are encouraged to participate again. Retired teachers are also encouraged to apply. Scorer selection is based on achieving a balance of geographic representation and a range of scoring experience.

How do I apply?

If you are interested and are able to make a three-day commitment, fill out the application form found in this brochure and mail or fax it [(603) 749-6398] to Measured Progress, the current contractor for the Maine Educational Assessment, by **November 8, 2002**. If you need additional forms (these can be duplicated at your school) or information, please contact Measured Progress by calling (800) 431-8901 or sending an E-mail to jedwards@measuredprogress.org.

Teachers will need to obtain permission from their local school districts for the three days of release time.

2002–03 MEA Scoring Sites

Bangor Motor Inn

Hogan Road
Bangor, Maine 04401
(207) 947-0355

Verrillo's Convention Center

155 Riverside Street
Portland, Maine 04103
(207) 775-6536

A certificate for contact hour credit
will be presented to each scorer.

Please
Place
Stamp
Here



171 Watson Road
Dover, NH 03820